



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket: 6493-02

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(NE)

In re the application of:

Steven Curtis Zicker & Karen J. Wedekind

Group No.: 1614

Serial No.: **Continuation of 09/978,127**

Examiner: Cybille Delacroix-Muirheid

Filed: **Concurrent herewith**

For: **Composition and Method**

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents & Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231 on this 25 day of April, 2003.

Cheryl A. Stefanelli

Cheryl A. Stefanelli
(Signature of person mailing paper or fee)

The US Patent & Trademark Office
Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Preliminary Amendment

Preliminary to examination of the subject application, it is kindly requested that the subject application be amended as set forth below.

In the Claims

Claim 1 (Original) – A companion pet diet meeting ordinary nutritional requirements for an aged pet and further comprising a sufficient amount of an antioxidant or mixture thereof, to inhibit the deterioration of the mental capacity of an aged companion pet.

Claim 2 – 11 (CANCELED)

Claim 12 (Previously Amended) A method for inhibiting the deterioration of the mental capacity of an aged companion pet which comprises feeding the pet an effective amount of antioxidant or mixture thereof to accomplish this inhibition.

Claim 13 – 16 (CANCELED)

Claim 17 (Previously Amended). The method in accordance with claim 12 wherein Vitamin E is present and fed to the pet in at least about 100 ppm as measured by a diet fed to the pet.